

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 3977

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFO ON KENYAN OFFICIALS

REF: SECTO 11005

1. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 3 REFTTEL, HERewith BIOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION ON KIEREINI, KARIITHI AND NJONJO.

A. JEREMIAH KIEREINI, PERMANENT SECRETARY AT MINISTRY
OF DEFENSE SINCE AUGUSTS 1970, HAS FUNCTIONED IN EFFECT
FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS AS GOK'S PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL IN
DEFENSE-RELATED MATTERS DUE TO FAILING HEALTH OF
DEFENSE MINISTER JAMES GICHURU, (OLD POLITICAL CRONY
OF KENYATTA). KIEREINI IS COORDINATING SIX-YEAR
\$300 MILLION EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FOR
KENYA'S ARMED FORCES. VISITED DEPARTMENT IN FEBRUARY
AS PART OF GOK MILITARY ASSISTANCE DELEGATION. HAS
IMPRESSED EMBASSY AS HAVING VERY COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF
NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES AND BEING HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN
EXERCISING CIVILIAN CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY. AGE MID-
40'S, FROM SAME KIKUYU TRIBE AS KENYATTA.

B. GEOFFREY KARIITHI, 51, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN OFFICE
OF THE PRESIDENT (ALSO SECRETARY TO THE CABINET AND HEAD
OF CIVIL SERVICE) IS ONE OF HANDFUL OF KENYATTA'S
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CLOSEST ADVISORS. KARIITHI IS INVOLVED IN ALL MAJOR

POLICY DECISIONS AND IS FREQUENTLY USED BY PRESIDENT AS TROUBLESHOOTER AND CONCILIATOR WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE BETWEEN DIFFERENT MINISTERS. IN PRESENT KEY POSITION SINCE JANUARY 1967, PREVIOUSLY PERMSEC IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (1964-67). ENTERED COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE IN 1952; WAS AMONG FIRST AFICAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS IN KENYA. WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING GOK ACTION ON SAUL COMPENSATION CASE. FROM SAME KIKUYU TRIBE AS KENYATTA.

C. CHARLES NJONJO, 54, KENYA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL SINCE JUNE 1963 IS ONE OF INNER CIRCLE OF KENYATTA'S CLOSEST ADVISORS. GENERALLY EFFECTIVE AS LEADING DEFENDER OF GOK POLICIES AND PERFORMANCE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. NOT AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, NJONJO HAS NO POLITICAL BASE OF HIS OWN AND IS BELIEVED TO BE STRONG SUPPORTER OF VICE PRESIDENT MOI IN COMPETITION TO SUCCEED AGING PRESIDENT KENYATTA. STUDIED AT FORT HARE UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH AFRICA (AS DID FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI). THEN ATTENDED SEVERAL BRITISH UNIVERSITIES RECEIVING LAW DEGREE IN 1954. MARRIED WHITE ENGLISH WOMAN IN 1972; AFFECTS BRITISH MANNER. INVOLVED IN CIVIC AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS.
MARSHALL

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